

March 7, 1989

LB 660, 775

SENATOR MOORE: Okay. No further questions.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Rod Johnson, followed by Senator Beck.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, as Senator Hall has outlined, we did hear LB 660 yesterday afternoon with a variety of other bingo and pickle card bills. LB 660, however, is a very comprehensive bill that covers both bingo and pickle regulations and operations and also deals with those who can operate bingos and those who can sell pickles. It also deals with the taxes on both of those products. And I think that the committee is in agreement that something needs to be done with both the tax and addressing the issue of who should qualify for participation in bingo and operating pickle sales in the state. And it would seem appropriate to me that we deal with this entire issue of both pickle and bingo in one bill as opposed to piecemealing as we're doing here with LB 775. It's just ironic that we heard those bills yesterday and yet today we're just talking specifically of bingos, but I think if any of you had sat through the hearing yesterday afternoon, you would have heard all of the various charitable organizations come forward and tell you what a good job they have been doing. And I don't think anyone on the committee who heard the testimony yesterday would complain that they haven't been doing good things for the variety of charitable interests throughout the State of Nebraska and specifically Omaha. But my point is if we're going to take time on this issue; then I would prefer to take time on LB 660 and I realize it's not on the floor, it's not a priority bill, however, I guess my point is I would prefer to see this entire issue be discussed in LB 660, which is Senator Lynch's bill, and possibly this bill, LB 775 could be amended to include most of the provisions in LB 660 that agreement has been reached. Yesterday, the Department of Revenue did come in and indicate that they had no problem making adjustments in some of the tax on both pickles and bingo. I guess, right now, however, we're talking about committee amendments which cut into the amount that the City of Omaha can collect on pickles...or on bingos, and I guess I have some problems with that even though I'm not a resident of Omaha. You know, yesterday we heard a variety of people come up and pick on Ak-Sar-Ben. Ak-Sar-Ben doesn't pay any tax, as many of you know, and it seems like that was an easy argument to make that while we're overtaxing bingo and pickles, we're not taxing Ak-Sar-Ben at all. However, Senator Labeledz, in 1984, did sponsor LB 701 which was brought to her by the City of